

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title on page 1 with the following amended title:

STABILIZED PHENOLIC RESOLE RESIN COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR USE

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The addition of the ortho ester was found to be an effective stabilizing agent to improve the shelf stability of the phenolic resole resin composition. The advantages of using the ortho ester in the phenolic resole resin composition are:

- (1) the phenolic resole resin composition [better has] has better shelf storage stability if it contains the ortho ester, and
- (2) the phenolic resole resin composition has improved heat stability at elevated temperatures if it contains the ortho ester.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8 beginning on line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred aggregate employed for preparing ordinary foundry shapes is silica wherein at least about 70 weight percent and preferably at least about 85 weight percent of the sand is silica. Other suitable aggregate materials include zircon, olivine, aluminosilicate[;Remove Comma] sand, chromite sand, and the like. Although the aggregate employed is preferably dry, it can contain minor amounts of moisture.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Hedden
Attorney for Ashland Inc.
Registration No. 29,388

Ashland Inc.
P.O. Box 2219
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Phone: (614) 790-4265
Fax: (614) 790-4268
e-mail: dlhedden@ashland.com